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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Patricia D. Lopez; Robert E. Sobol  
Assignee: Hewlett-Packard Company  
Title: SYSTEM FOR SETTING IMAGE CHARACTERISTICS USING  
EMBEDDED CAMERA TAG INFORMATION  
Serial No.: 09/911,280 Filing Date: July 23, 2001  
Examiner: Alavi, Amir Group Art Unit: 2621  
Docket No.: 10006190-1 Confirmation No.: 2816

Irvine, California  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2005

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Notice of Allowability dated December 6, 2004.

The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance expresses that reference Hubel et al. fail to address: "a color image database storing multiple images from actual image data and an image processing process that is capable of detecting color and illuminants of the acquired digital images based on color and illuminants of the multiple images from actual image data stored in the color image database."

Applicants agree with this statement of reasons for allowance with respect to claims 1-3, 6, 11-13, 16, and 19-21.

However, claims 4-5, and 14-15 are not so limited, but rather are allowable on the basis that none of the prior art disclose or fairly suggest "a position selection process that sets a position of the image vector to a first binary value if chromaticity corresponding to the

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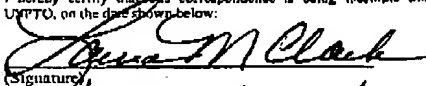
position appears in the acquired image and a position de-selection process that resets a position of the image vector to a second binary value if chromaticity corresponding to the position fails to appear in the acquired image."

Furthermore, claims 7 and 17 are allowable on the basis that none of the prior art disclose or fairly suggest "illuminants and chromaticities determined based on actual image data including tags that identify the image acquisition device that acquires a particular image, and information concerning manufacturer, model and version of the image acquisition device, and image acquisition devices settings at the time of acquisition."

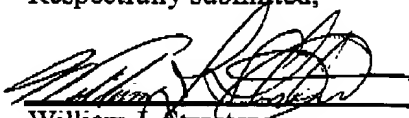
Claims 8 and 18 are allowable on the basis that none of the prior art disclose or fairly suggest "illuminants and chromaticities determined based on information relating to actual image data including tags that identify the image acquisition device that acquires a particular image, and information concerning manufacturer, model and version of the image acquisition device, and image acquisition devices settings at the time of acquisition."

Claim 9 is allowable on the basis that none of the prior art disclose or fairly suggest "illuminants and chromaticities determined based on information relating to tags such as manufacturer and model tags to screen the digital images stored in the database according to manufacturer and model."

Claim 10 is allowable on the basis that none of the prior art disclose or fairly suggest "illuminants and chromaticities determined based on information relating to private image tag information including manufacturer and model information tags, and image data tags including focal length, shutter speed, and aperture."

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date shown below:	
	
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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